2011

NASA Range Safety Annual Report

II. RANGE SAFETY PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

2011 continued the busy pace of previous years in Range Safety. Before highlighting the areas covered in this year's edition, it's important to restate the goal of the NASA Range Safety Program as defined in NPR 8715.5 Rev A, "Range Flight Safety Program," dated September 19, 2010, and signed by the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance. The goal of the program is to protect the public, the workforce, and property during range operations such as launching, flying, landing, and testing launch/flight vehicles. This goal applies to all centers and test facilities and all NASA vehicle programs, including manned flight programs, expendable launch vehicles, reusable launch vehicles, and unmanned aircraft systems, Also included in this group are NASA-funded commercial ventures that involve range operations. We meet the goal of NPR 8715.5 Rev A by evaluating, mitigating, and controlling the hazards associated with range operations such as debris, distant focusing overpressure, and toxics.

This is our sixth year providing the annual report via a web-based format. As always, this report takes a comprehensive look at Range Safety to demonstrate how we meet or implement the Range Safety Program.

During 2011, we continued to be extremely busy teaching the NASA Range Safety Training Classes, providing launch support for a multitude of missions including the very last Space Shuttle, working with KSC and the Eastern Range to update local NASA/Air Force policy, supporting efforts in the Range Commanders Council meetings and Common Standards Working Group, performing independent assessments at various NASA Centers, and providing Range Safety support to new programs such as Morpheus and the Commercial Crew Program.

A summary of these efforts is highlighted in this report.